

Mark R. EASTER  
Serial No.: 10/016,514  
Amendment dated 10/13/2004

- 4 -

### REMARKS

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments.

The courtesy of a telephonic interview between Examiner Mayo and the undersigned on October 12, 2004 is gratefully acknowledged.

At the suggestion of the Examiner, the features of Claims 15 and 21 (indicated as allowable and objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim) have been incorporated into Claims 1 and 12, respectively. Previously canceled Claim 16 (also indicated as allowable in the November 13, 2003 Office Action and objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim) is currently amended with a minor change to form for consistency with claim 12 from which it depends. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended and Claims 15, and 17-21 have been cancelled, without prejudice, to eliminate any extant issues. Claims of scope commensurate with those extant prior to this Amendment may be pursued in a separate application. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Upon entry of this amendment, the pending claims (all of which have been indicated as allowable by the Examiner) will be 1-14 and 16.

There are no issues related to the above-referenced allowed claims and only allowed claims will be present in this application upon entry of this amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this amendment should be entered and the application allowed to issue.

A two-month petition for extension of time was filed on April 13, 2004, extending the period of response to the November 13, 2003 Office Action from February 13, 2004 to April 13, 2004. A Notice of Appeal and a Third Month Extension of Time were filed on May 13, 2004. A three-month petition for extension of time is submitted concurrently herewith, continuing the pendency of this application. In the event a petition for extension of time is needed and not submitted herewith, authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (110938-00132) for any fees and such petition is hereby submitted.

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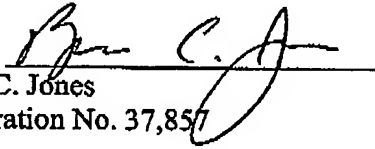
- 5 -

In the event there are any questions relating to this Amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney.

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to BLANK ROME  
COMISKY & MCCAULEY LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (110938-00132).

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark R. EASTER

Date: October 13, 2004

BY:   
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